



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2017

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR EMANUEL ON WILLIE PICKENS

“Willie Pickens was a towering figure in our city’s cultural landscape, lighting the keyboard on fire with splashy chords and lightning runs over a career that spanned more than half a century. But Willie was more than an artist. He was a CPS teacher, a grandfather, an active member of his church, and a mentor to generations of countless young Chicago musicians who learned, grew, and were inspired by his training and guidance. His impact will always be felt across our city’s clubs and stages, and his music will be remembered in the hearts of pianists and jazz lovers everywhere.”

###